



Elizabeth A. Putnam, Ph.D.
Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Skaggs School of Pharmacy
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, Montana 59812-1552

Phone: (406) 243-4794
Fax: (406) 243-5228
elizabeth.putnam@umontana.edu
www.biomed.health.umt.edu

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Dear Montana Judicial Nominations Commission,

I am writing to support the application of **Jeffrey Renz** for the new state District Judge position in Missoula. I have known Jeff since 2011 when we served together on the University of Montana Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. Jeff was chair-elect of the Faculty Senate, and when he became chair in 2012 I was elected to be his chair-elect.

This was a turbulent time at the University of Montana especially with the controversies over the placement of the new Missoula College building, curricular changes, and football scandals. As you can imagine, conducting meetings and leading the 50+ members of the Faculty Senate at that time was challenging. Jeff was able to conduct meetings in a way that ensured all voices were heard and respected. His calm demeanor and insistence on due process enabled the discussions to move forward productively. He was also Chair of the Montana University System Faculty Association Representatives during that time, and I appreciated his thoughtful leadership of the faculty while sitting at the table at Board of Regents meetings. I learned much from Jeff during that time, and I believe it contributed to my successful leadership of the Faculty Senate, as Interim Dean of the Davidson Honors College, and currently as Chair of my department.

In conclusion, I believe that Jeff's talents, along with his experience running the law clinic at the Law School, will allow him to be a thoughtful and fair judge in our community. Should you need further information regarding Jeffrey Renz, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Putnam, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair